



Reference: MLO-144-C

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: William P. Schmidt and
Franklin D. Hutchinson

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Title: OVAL ELLIPTICAL MIRROR

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Hon. Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97

Sir:

As a means of complying with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 CFR 1.56, the art listed and identified on the attached Form PTO-1449 is being submitted herewith for consideration by the Examiner in accordance with 37 CFR 1.97 and MPEP 609.

The relevance of each submitted item is as follows:

U.S. Patent No. 1,437,850 issued December 5, 1922 to La Hodny teaches a mirror, the edges of which are finished in such a way as to cooperate with the silvering or backing to produce a framed effect without the use of a frame and in which no double images or confusing reflections are shown.

U.S. Patent No. 1,811,823 issued June 23, 1931 to Horton teaches a rear view mirror having a convex glass plate, silvered on its back and contained within a cupped or other frame, the frame having a marginal flange encircling the reflective field. The margin along with the frame is chromium plated or otherwise finished with a brilliancy in keeping with

the harmony scheme in which the automobile is trimmed.

U.S. Patent No. 2,390,424 issued December 4, 1945 to Colbert teaches a first surface mirror composed of a support or body portion having a preferably convex or spherical face surface to which is applied a film or coating of material having high light reflecting qualities which are toned down to a desirable degree within a range of from 40% to 60% reflectivity by the use of an opaque light absorbing support or an opaque coating or layer on transparent support to absorb a portion of the light rays.

U.S. Patent No. 2,881,655 issued April 14, 1959 to Eisenschink discloses a mirror provided with straighter curve lines, said lines extending transversely through the entire width of the mirror at different vertical distances from each other and corresponding to an imaginary line connecting the points of contact of the front wheels of an overtaken car with the surface of the road at different distances from the image in the mirror.

U.S. Patent No. 4,822,157 issued April 18, 1989 to Stout discloses an elongate, arcuate mirror provided with a lightweight, aerodynamic back support which is particularly designed for use with school busses.

U.S. Patent No. 4,834,521 issued May 30, 1989 to Dubs teaches a concavo-convex replacement mirror permanently securable coextensively atop a flat plane mirror provided as an original equipment side-mount, rear-view mirror on a motor vehicle.

U.S. Patent No. 5,084,785 issued January 28, 1992 to

Albers et alia teaches a safety mirror mountable adjacent to the perimeter of a vehicle which provides vehicle drivers the ability to observe from the driving position an area extending outwardly from at least one location inboard of the portion of the perimeter of the vehicle visible from the location of the mirror. The mirror has a convex aspheric elliptic paraboloid image reflecting mirror surface. The curvature of the mirror surface decreases from a point of maximum curvature spaced from a point of minimum curvature at the peripheral edge of the mirror.

U.S. Patent No. 4,436,372 issued March 13, 1984 to Schmidt et alia and is entitled "ELLIPTICAL MIRROR FOR VEHICLE USE". Schmidt et alia teaches the use of a convex reflecting surface to improve the field of view of the driver of the vehicle.

U.S. Patent No. 4,804,257 issued February 14, 1989 to Schmidt et alia and is entitled "Mechanism for Mounting Mirrors". Schmidt teaches a mounting mechanism which is designed to reduce vibrations by a dampener of telescoping rods attached thereto.

U.S. Patent No. 4,500,063 issued on February 19, 1985 to Schmidt et alia and is entitled "Fender Mounting Mechanism" is designed to mount on curved fenders as opposed to mounting atop fenders.

U.S. Patent No. 5,106,049 issued April 21, 1992 to Schmidt et alia and is entitled "Mounting Bracket for Mirror". Schmidt et alia teaches a mirror support assembly and mounting bracket that may fit curved vehicle bodies at any location.

U.S. Patent No. 5,116,013 issued May 26, 1992 to Malcolmson and is entitled "Mirror/Tube Mounting Mechanism". Schmidt et alia teaches a mechanism which achieves vibration dampening by mounting a second tube parallel to the main support tube.

West German Patent No. 2148022 issued March, 1973 to Oehring teaches a rear-view or wing mirror having distance markings to enable the driver to judge the distance of following vehicles. Three concentric frames are provided on the mirror following the outside contours of the mirror. The frames are three different colors to denote the degree of danger.

It is to be appreciated that none of the above-cited references teach the invention disclosed in the present application. More specifically, none of the references disclose a mirror lens which is substantially convex and wherein the mirror lens is an ellipsoid with a first major axis and a second major axis, the second major axis being different from the first major axis.

It is the opinion of the Applicants that the claims presently on file patentably distinguish the present invention from each of the references submitted. The references are being cited only in the interests of candor and without any admission that the references constitute statutory prior art or contain matter rendering the same obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art. Further, the submission of this information disclosure statement and the accompanying references shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a).

exists.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.98, a copy of each reference cited herein is attached to this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kenneth L. Stein".

Kenneth L. Stein
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 38625
(810) 258-5590

WEINTRAUB, DuROSS & BRADY
30200 Telegraph Road, Suite 444
Bingham Farms, MI 48025

PSC:paf

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